

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated December 14, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claim 33 has been amended. Support for the amendments can be found, *inter alia*, in Figs. 1a, 6 and 7a-c. No new matter is added. Claims 33-61 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

The following rejections were made in the Office Action:

- Claims 33, 36-39, 45, 46 and 49-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zanzucchi et al. (WO 96/15450).
- Claims 33, 36-39, 45, 46 and 49-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pfost et al. (6,485,690).
- Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanzucchi et al. (WO 96/15450) in view of Kellogg et al. (6,143,248).
- Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfost et al. (6,485,690) in view of Craighead (5,867,266).
- Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanzucchi et al. (WO 96/15450) in view of Paffhausen et al. (6,191,852).
- Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanzucchi et al. (WO 96/15450) in view of Parce et al. (WO 98/02728).

- Claims 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanzucchi et al. (WO 96/15459) in view of Siegmund (3,979,637)
- Claims 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfof et al. (6,485,690) in view of Stabile et al. (5,872,623).

Applicants traverse the rejections.

Claim 33 was rejected over Zanzucchi or Pfof. Applicants submit, however, that the Office Action mischaracterized claim 33 in the rejections and the rejections to claim 33 were improper.

Claim 33, as previously submitted, recited that the feed and discharge channels have non-uniform cross sections. See amendment dated October 2, 2006 at 2. The Office Action states that a "new rejection" has been made citing Kellogg in order to show this feature. Thus, the Office Action admits that Zanzucchi and Pfof fail to show each and every element of claim 33 and therefore, the rejections of claim 33 are improper and must be withdrawn.

With respect to the remaining rejections, claim 33, upon which claims 34-61 depend, is amended to include features regarding the angles between the channels that are formed such that fluid can be discharged from each reaction area with circumvention of the particular other reaction areas. Exemplary angles are shown in Figs. 1a, 6 and 7a-c. More particularly, claim 33 is amended to recite the limitation that "said connecting channels being arranged in a side-by-side relationship and at an obtuse angle to said fluid feed channels and to said fluid discharge channels measured

in a direction of fluid flow such that fluid can be discharged from each reaction area with circumvention of the particular other reaction areas (4; 104)." Hence, the rejections to the claims are moot and must be withdrawn. Further, none of the cited prior art references disclose or suggest this novel and useful channel configuration.

Accordingly, Applicants request that all rejections be withdrawn and that claims 33-61 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.


In the event that this paper is not timely filled, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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